Permission for Payment to EDCIL by KVS

* 366. SHRI' NAGENDRA NATO OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 667, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether permission of the Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was obtained for payment to Educational Consultants India Limited (EDCIL) with regard to work order given to this instrumentality for recruiting teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, when and on what basis;

(c) if not, whether it is an irregularity that warrants disciplinary action; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Permission of Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is not required in such matters.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Kerala for Floods

*367. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised the Chief Minister, Ministers and MPs from Kerala to give financial assistance to the State to compensate the losses and damage suffered due to very heavy floods;

(b) if so, the details of assistance given so far;

(c) if not, what is the reason for the delay in giving the required assistance; and

(d) what steps would be taken to grant financial assistance, without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Memorandum of the Government of Kerala seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was examined in accordance with the scheme laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission. As the entitlement of the State as per the approved items and scales of relief expenditure was within available balances in its Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), no assistance was found admissible from the NCCF. The State Government and the Chief Minister were apprised of the position.

The second instalment of the Central Share of the CRF of Rs.26.475 crores was released in advance. 5000 MTs of Rice was also released free of cost.

Rail Passes for Freedom Fighters of Tripura

* 368. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail passes to the Tripura Freedom Fighters and their spouses are being issued from Lumding, Assam;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Ministry of Railways to consider to issue such passes from the Railway Ticket Counter in TRTC Complex or from the office of N.F. Railway, Gurkhabasti, Agartala; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Freedom Fighter card passes are issued from the personnel branches of Zonal/Divisional Railway Headquarter Offices, on submission of application by the freedom fighters along with the prescribed documents. The processing of the applications from freedom fighters involves proper scrutiny and record keeping, ¡K order to ensure proper accountal of the freedom fighter care passes. Personnel branches of Zonal/Divisional Railway Headquarters offices have been entrusted this job, as they are competent and equipped for the task. The responsibility of issuing